



New Internationalist

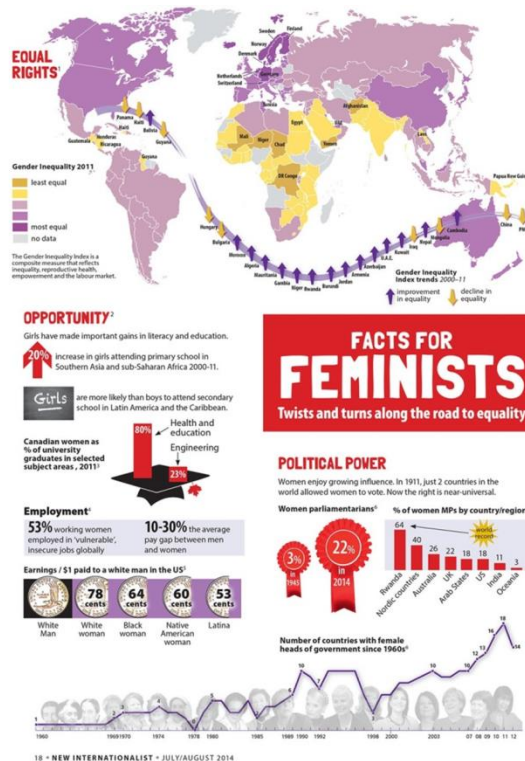
The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

Feminism

New Internationalist Easier English
Ready Intermediate Lesson

Today's lesson: Speaking Reading 1 Reading 2

Speaking and understanding infographic Writing a letter



FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

Among the most common human rights abuses worldwide, male violence is more likely to kill or maim women aged 15-44 than cancer, malaria, war and traffic accidents combined.¹

30% of women worldwide have experienced violence by an intimate partner.²

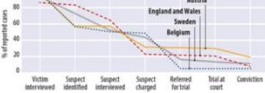
117 million girls thought missing due to 'sex selection' before birth, neglect and infanticide.³

20,000 'honour' killings estimated to take place each year, globally.⁴

2 women are murdered every day in Guatemala.⁵

Sexual violence

Rape case attention in selected European countries⁶



50% of sexual assaults worldwide are committed against girls under 16.⁷

10 lesbians are subjected to 'corrective' rape every week in Cape Town, South Africa.⁸

500,000 women (adults, children and infants) are raped in South Africa every year, the highest rate worldwide.⁹

Legal redress¹⁰

64% drop in domestic violence in the US (1994-2010), following the Violence Against Women Act.

125 countries outlaw domestic violence.

52 countries have explicitly criminalized marital rape.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS^{11,12}

68,000 women die from unsafe abortions each year.

61 countries severely restrict women's right to abortion.

% of women in relationships using any method of contraception



DOMESTIC WORK^{13,14}

Women spend at least twice as much time as men on unpaid housework, in all regions.

British men and women, daily housework in minutes

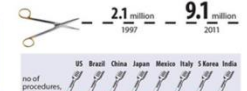
Sharing care

Average minutes per day devoted by men to childcare

Country	1970s	2000	2010
Britain	10	17	22
Norway	13	22	23
US	11	22	23

BODY POLITIC

Plastic surgery procedures in the US over 15-year period¹⁵



Share of total cosmetic (surgical and nonsurgical) procedures, 2011¹⁶

1 in 5 women in South Korea undergoes cosmetic surgery – the highest ratio in the world.¹⁷

Dress/undress

1 in 5 teenage girls in the US has been asked to send nude or suggestive pictures online.¹⁸

12% say they feel pressured to do it.¹⁹

100 the number of women arrested daily in Tehran for not wearing proper Islamic head dress.²⁰

80% of all 10-year-old girls in the US have died.²¹

Risk of maternal death

1 in 7,300 developed world

1 in 22 sub-Saharan Africa

1 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. Based on UNICEF Gender Inequality Index, 2013. 2 UNICEF Gender Inequality Index, 2013. 3 UNICEF Gender Inequality Index, 2013. 4 UNICEF Gender Inequality Index, 2013. 5 UNICEF Gender Inequality Index, 2013. 6 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 7 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 8 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 9 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 10 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 11 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 12 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 13 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 14 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 15 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 16 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 17 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 18 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 19 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 20 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013. 21 Dan Smith, *State of the World 2014*, Myriad/News International, 2013.

Discuss:



- 1/ How important is feminism?
- 2/ What did feminists fight for in the past?
- 3/ What are feminists fighting for now?
- 4/ Is feminism fighting for the same things all over the world? What are some of the different issues?

Text 1: What do you think is happening here, and why?



While you read the text (next two slides), decide which of these summaries is the best:

The women wear false beards:

- a) so that they look as important as men and can get into important meetings.**
- b) because they're angry that men are more important than them and want to protest.**
- c) to make people question the control of men.**

“La Barbe”

Put on a false beard and walk into a space of power. This is what the French action group *La Barbe* (‘Beard’ in English) do. With no invitation, they walk into important French events where there are mostly men.

‘We show them what is happening, like in a mirror,’ says Chris Blache, from *La Barbe*. ‘We walk in and say to the men – “this is beautiful, fantastic, nothing has changed since the 19th century! Keep it like that.”’

La Barbe started as a protest against the people who were very sexist about Ségolène Royal when she ran for president in 2007. A little later, it grew into all areas where there are not enough women.

‘We found that men were also leading the very respectable groups – leftwing, civil society groups and the arts. They said, “Oh my god, how can you do this to us? We do good every day” or “But art is not the same as other areas!”’

People noticed this effective method and it became more popular. Women now use it all over France and the world, eg. in Australia. In Mexico, it is called *Las Bigotonas* – ‘the moustaches’.

Blache says it’s a good idea for all women to take a false beard with them all the time, because they might need it.

Text 2: What do you think is happening here, and why?



What do you think the article is about,
from this headline?

**“India’s Muslim
women say ‘No
second wife!’”**

What do you think these 2 groups of women think about:

- a) **polygamy (having more than one wife)** and
- b) **girls getting married very young?**

1/ educated, middle-class Muslim women in India

2/ poor, illiterate Muslim women in India

Now read to find out:

‘No Second Wife, please’ is an interesting headline. It described some unexpected reactions from Indian Muslim women’s groups to banning polygamy.

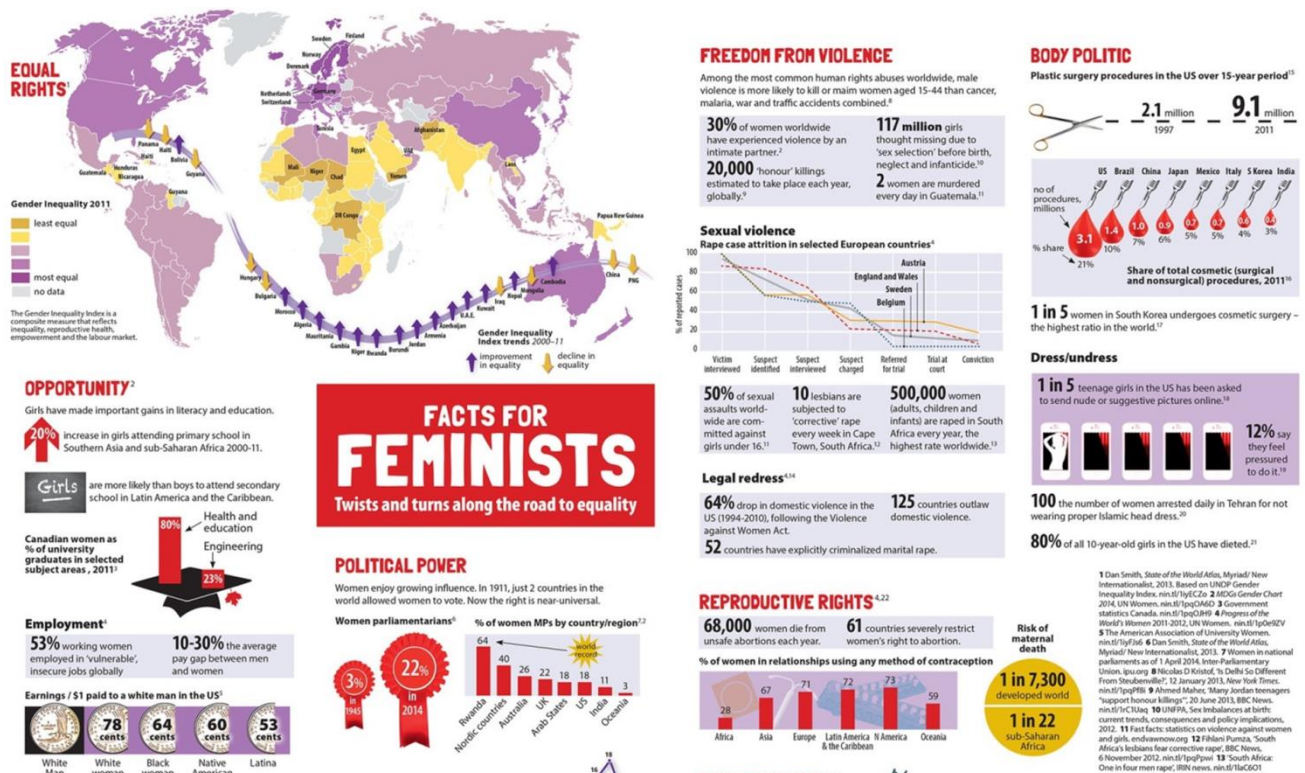
An Indian Muslim women’s movement has been working on Personal Indian Muslim law. What they found was very surprising: in 10 states, most poor, illiterate Muslim women voted to stop the practice of having more than one wife. But educated, middle-class Muslim women did not want to change the law. Even when it means that 13-year-old girls get married before they finish school. The women with no education wanted their daughters to have education, and chose 21 as a good age to marry.

And now, a quiz (in pairs?):

- 1/ Name one of the least equal (women and men) countries in the world.
- 2/ Name one of the most equal countries.
- 3/ Name one country where inequality is getting worse.
- 4/ Name one country where inequality is improving.
- 5/ What % of women in the world have experienced violence from a partner.
- 6/ Which country has the highest % of women in government?

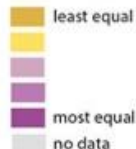
Now check your answers

and find two more interesting facts on this infographic (enlarged on next page, or accessible here: <http://newint.org/features/2014/07/01/facts-for-feminists-infographic/>)

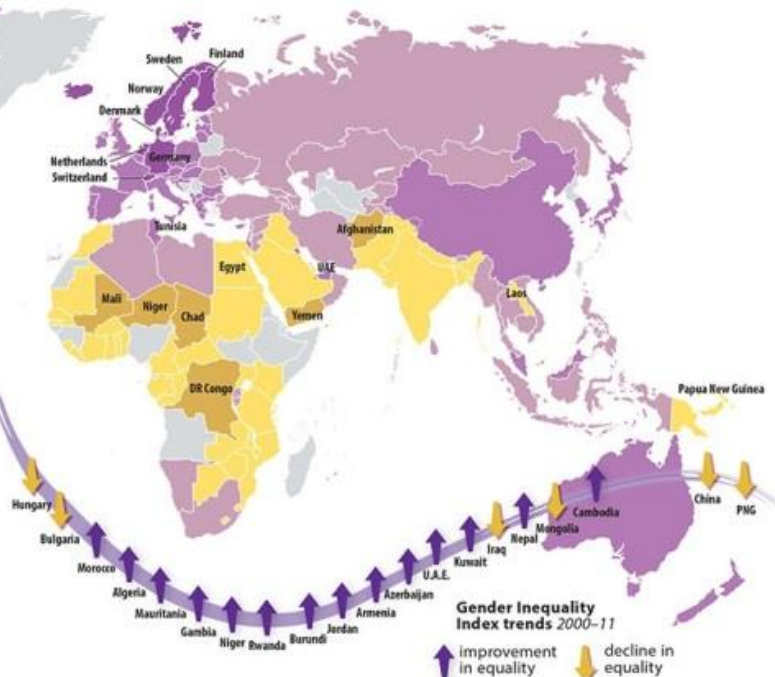


EQUAL RIGHTS¹

Gender Inequality 2011

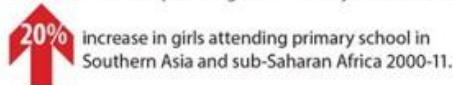


The Gender Inequality Index is a composite measure that reflects inequality, reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market.



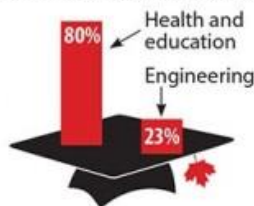
OPPORTUNITY²

Girls have made important gains in literacy and education.



Girls are more likely than boys to attend secondary school in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Canadian women as % of university graduates in selected subject areas, 2011³



Employment⁴

53% working women employed in 'vulnerable', insecure jobs globally
10-30% the average pay gap between men and women

Earnings / \$1 paid to a white man in the US⁵



FACTS FOR FEMINISTS

Twists and turns along the road to equality

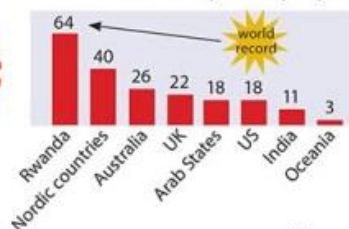
POLITICAL POWER

Women enjoy growing influence. In 1911, just 2 countries in the world allowed women to vote. Now the right is near-universal.

Women parliamentarians⁶



% of women MPs by country/region^{7,2}



FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

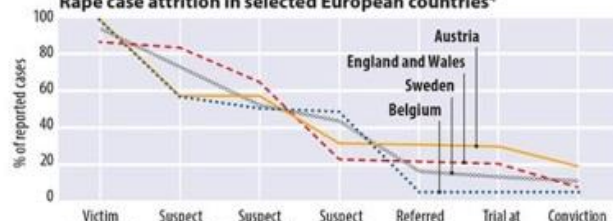
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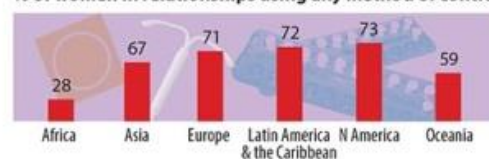
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REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS^{4,22}

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Writing:

In pairs, write a letter to your imaginary 5-year-old daughter. Tell her a little about feminism around the world, and about what she, as a girl, can expect to do in her life.



Homework:

Read the original articles:

- 1) [http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/New Feminism: 3 stories from Egypt, France and Brazil](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/New_Feminism:_3_stories_from_Egypt,_France_and_Brazil)
- 2) <http://newint.org/blog/majority/2014/07/10/india-polygamy/>

And more Easier English articles about feminism:

- 3) Is there a feminist spring?:

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Is there a feminist spring%3F](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Is_there_a_feminist_spring%3F)

- 4) Can plastic surgery make you feel free?

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Argument: Can plastic surgery make you feel free%3F](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Argument:_Can_plastic_surgery_make_you_feel_free%3F)

